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**Washington, DC** – May 15-21, 2011 marks National Police Week to honor all the police officers who were injured or killed in the line of duty. Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-04) welcomed nearly 100 Minnesota police officers and their families who were visiting Washington, DC for National Police Week.

Last night, Congresswoman McCollum led the group through the Capitol Building, the floor of the House of Representatives, and the Congressional Visitors Center on a private tour.

"Having all of you here tonight is such an honor. Your work plays such a tremendous role in the safety and welfare of our community," said Congresswoman McCollum during last night's tour. "We cannot thank you and your families enough for the work you do each and every day."

On May 1, 2010, Maplewood Police Sergeant Joseph Bergeron was shot and killed by two men while he was trying to apprehend a carjacking suspect. During the search to find the shooters, St. Paul Police Officer Longbehn was severely injured by one of the perpetrators.

Tomorrow, the Emerald Society will present Officer Longbehn with its Officer of the Year Award to recognize his bravery and outstanding service to the citizens of St. Paul.

"During an extremely dangerous manhunt, Officer Longbehn risked his life to protect our community from a killer," concluded Congresswoman McCollum. "His courageous actions remind us of the sacrifices the men and women of law enforcement make every day."

The Emerald Society is an organization made up of American police officers and fire fighters who are of Irish heritage.

*Congresswoman Betty McCollum serves on the House Appropriations and Budget Committees.*

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